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THIS LAND WE DEFEND

Hugh H. Bennett and William C. Pryor
Review by Duncan Scott, Division of Information
Soil Conservation Service

The topsoil stripped from 282 million acres--soil washing and blowing daily on 775 million more acres--three billion tons of soil material washed away each year--three billion dollars wasted annually. That is the price that America is paying for the ravages of soil erosion declare Hugh Hammond Bennett and William Clayton Pryor in their book.

In simple, graphic language, the authors trace the march of exploiters across the continent, point out the errors of wanton land breaking, and find an answer in the nationwide interest in soil conservation and the development of soil conservation districts. This book tells the dramatic story of man's struggle to maintain soil and water--two of his basic resources. It is a book that may be read for information--and sheer pleasure--by every person in the Department.

DESERT SAINTS: THE MORMON FRONTIER IN UTAH

Nels Anderson
University of Chicago Press. 1942
Review by William I. Palmer, Soil Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service

Nels Anderson's book tells chiefly the story of the frontier in Utah between the time of the arrival of the "Saints" in 1847 and the death of Brigham Young in 1877. In addition, well written historical material is given to round out the history of the Mormon Church from 1830 to the granting of statehood in 1896. Unusual attention is given to Mormon family and community life, and an attempt has been made to show effects of church beliefs and practices upon the lives of its members.

The writer professes "nominal affiliation" with the Mormon Church. Nevertheless, a guarded attempt at fairness is evidenced throughout in this scholarly volume. Pro-Mormon and anti-Mormon; Mormon and non-Mormon sources are drawn upon. Each chapter is concluded with well chosen notes which reveal a careful gathering of reliable material.

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